

Arab Republic of Egypt

Ministry of Awqaf

*Sha'ban* ٧, ١٤٤٥ A.H./ February ١٧, ٢٠٢٤ C.E

## **The Right of Children and Young People to Good Care Including Necessities, Needs and Luxuries**

All praise is due to Allah, the Lord of all worlds, Who says in His Ever Glorious Book to His Prophet, **"Allah instructs you regarding your children."** I bear witness that there is no god but Allah, and that Muhammad is His Servant and Messenger. May Allah's Peace and Blessings be upon him, his Household, Companions and upon those who follow their path to the Day of Judgment.

When contemplating the Islamic Shari'ah, one finds that it has paid special attention to human beings, starting from the formation of the family, then through the stages of pregnancy, birth, and breastfeeding. It has guaranteed the child's right to breastfeed for two full years, in order to preserve his right to the genuine nutrition that would help build his body healthy. The Almighty Allah says, **"His bearing and weaning took a full thirty months."** Allah also said, **"Mothers suckle their children for two whole years, if they wish to complete the term."**

The rights of children and young people vary between necessities, needs and luxuries. The necessities are these things that are indispensable in the establishment of the worldly affairs religious affairs, such as the children's right to food and drink and what is necessary for his life. Our Prophet (PBUH) said, "It is a sufficient sin for a man to neglect his own dependents." The Prophet (PBUH) also said, "All of you are guardians

and are responsible for your subjects... the man is a guardian and is responsible for his family.”

As for the needs, they denote things which when lost, life will go hardly and this will entail falling into hardship, such as the child's right to good education. Ignorance destroys the lives of individuals and nations alike. Therefore, Umar Ibn al-Khattab (may Allah be pleased with him) said: “Educate your child, for you will be held accountable for what you have taught your child.”

There is no doubt that nations that well educate their children, and prepare and qualify them in the best manner are nations that achieve progress and development. It is not a matter of the number of citizens, but rather their quality and goodness. A little number of people who are good and fruitful is better than the great number of people who are devoid of goodness. This is confirmed by the Glorious Qur’an as the Almighty Allah said, **“How often a small force has defeated a large army with Allah’s permission! Allah is with those who are steadfast.”**

Therefore, when the Prophets (peace be upon them) asked Allah for having a child, they asked Him for having a good child, not any child. This is Prophet Abraham (PBUH) says, **“Lord, grant me a righteous son.”** Also, Prophet Zakariya (PBUH) asked Allah saying, **“O Lord, grant me by Your favour an upright child. You are the Hearer of Prayer.”** Thus, the principle is not about the number, but rather about the goodness as the Prophet (PBUH) said, **“A strong believer is better and dearer to Allah than a weak one.”** Strength here is general, that is, it refers to a believer who is strong physically, healthily, scientifically, culturally and economically.

\*\*\*

All praise is due to Allah, Lord of the Worlds; may Allah's Peace and Blessings be upon Prophet Muhammad (PBUH), his companions and followers:

As for the luxuries, they refer to things that perfect and beautify the conditions of people and their behaviors and practices, including: their right to building their personalities and teaching them sports such as archery, swimming and horse riding. Once, the Prophet (PBUH) passed by some people of the tribe of Bani Aslam who were practicing archery. The Prophet said, "O sons of Isma'il ! Practice archery as your father Isma'il was a great archer. Keep on throwing arrows and I am with Bani so-and-so." Then, one of the parties ceased throwing. The Prophet (PBUH) said, "Why do you not throw?" They replied, "How should we throw while you are with them (i.e. on their side)?" On that the Prophet (PBUH) said, "Throw, and I am with all of you." Umar Ibn al-Khattab (may Allah be pleased with him) said, "Teach your children swimming, archery and horse riding."

This also includes showing kindness and mercy to children. Once, the (PBUH) prostrated during the prayer for so long that people said, "O Messenger of Allah, you had made a long prostration that we thought something bad had happened or that you were receiving a revelation.' He (PBUH) said: 'No such thing happened. But my grandson was riding on my back and I did not like to disturb him." In another occasion, the Prophet (PBUH) was delivering a sermon on the pulpit. Then al-Hasan and al-Husayn came, wearing red shirts, walking and stumbling. He came down and picked them up, then said: I saw these two children walking and stumbling in their shirts, and I could not be patient until I went down and picked them up.'" The Prophet (PBUH) used sometimes to lead Muslims in prayer while he was carrying Umama, daughter of Zainab (may Allah be pleased with her) when he prostrated he put her down and when he stood up he lifted her up.

How do not need such correct understanding that would guide our lives and the lives of our children in the light of the teachings of our true religion?!

O Allah, protect our children with your beautiful preservation!

O Allah, protect our homeland and raise its flag high among all countries of the world!